

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Tobias Fike
Stages

January 19- February 24, 2018

Opening Reception: Friday, January 19, 2018, 6-8 pm

Free and open to the public / Artist in attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to present, *Stages*, an immersive installation from Tobias Fike in the project room. This work, like much of Fike's oeuvre, offers full sensory experience incorporating sight and sound elements in performative collage. *Stages* began with the image: light casting shadows of trees through the windows of his family's home, that of his father's childhood. This meditation of those fleeting moments provides a multi-layered installation of natural elements, machines, the body, and the mind in an intentionally unrefined manner. Fike artificially recreates this memory using a central sculptural 'tree', electric lights and fans. The cast shadows would typically pique one's curiosity, in life, one is cued to find the source out the window, but here it is very easily discovered that it is not true branches, but a raw facsimile produced by a combination of machine and man-made leaves attached to branches swaying in a fan-generated breeze. In this instance, the artifice isn't hidden, it is embraced. But true and familiar memories are called to mind. Sound brings this visual cue out of a vacuum, bringing it to reality even more with typically unnoticed elements of this experience: the hum of crickets, breathing, a song playing in the distance.

Stages presents a holistic memory, collaged and layered elements as they would be in life set out for the viewer to piece together their own ethereal landscape. Included in this installation, a smaller sculptural work titled, *In Memory of Forgotten Moments* offers an additional layer of nostalgia and humor to an already nuanced moment in time. This captivating installation exploring artificiality and the ability to reproduce memories so easily forgotten.

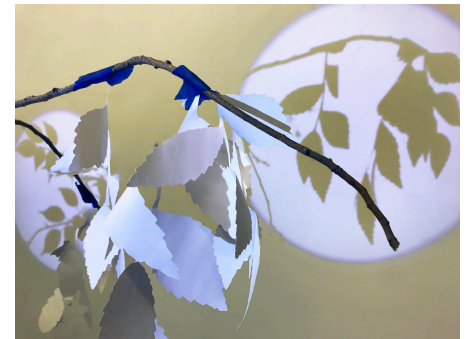


Image: Tobias Fike, *Stages* (detail), 2018, wood, paper, tape, electrical cord, LED lights, found objects, sound, dimensions variable.

About Tobias Fike

Tobias Fike is an interdisciplinary, contemporary artist who lives and works outside of Denver, Colorado. The form of his work is incredibly varied and he approaches a range of concepts, from his personal experiences of family, place, and grief, to our temporal relationship with the universe and observations of time.

Fike was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, moved to Kansas City when he was ten, then later returned to Lincoln to attend the University of Nebraska, where he earned a BFA in 2000. He earned his MFA from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2011. In addition to national tours showcasing his rich performance and collaboration-based projects, including sound performances with the Flinching Eye Collective, Fike's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, with exhibitions in cities including Berlin, Germany; Coimbra, Portugal; Houston, TX; and Tucson, AZ, among others.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

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